



Jan. 13, 2012

This Week:

- Governor's State of the State Address
- WSDOT presentation to House and Senate Transportation Committees
- 144-car Yakima update
- Cross sound passenger ferry roundtable
- Ferry tales
- Customer compliment

Governor's State of the State Address

Gov. Chris Gregoire addressed the Washington State Legislature on Tuesday morning in her State of the State Address (available in the archives of www.tvw.org). The governor outlined the crisis hitting state transportation and that includes our beloved ferry system. The fact is that there is no maintenance and preservation funding for vessels and terminals beyond June 2013. Without preserving our vessels and terminals, at a minimum, we cannot continue to operate this great system. We've known this crisis was coming and now it's here.

The good news is that this crisis can be averted. At a minimum, the Legislature must adopt the preservation and maintenance fee package proposed by the governor. This will keep the ferry system approximately at status quo. However, if we want to keep the ferry system we have into the future and build new vessels to replace our aging fleet, we need new investments. I hope the Legislature will develop a new revenue package and present the case for new investments to the people for their consideration.

We have risen to challenges that appeared insurmountable in the past two years, and working together (employees, communities and riders), we will rise to this one.

WSDOT presentation to House and Senate Transportation Committees

Secretary of Transportation Paula Hammond presented to the House and Senate Transportation Committees on Monday regarding the State of Transportation (available in the archives of www.tvw.org). Secretary Hammond's [presentation](#) focused on the dire funding situation facing transportation in Washington state, including the ferry system.

144-car Yakima update

On Friday, Jan. 6, the 144-car Yakima was towed from Anacortes to WSF's Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility for repairs to a thrust bearing. We are working hard to fix the problem and estimate that the Yakima will return to service mid to late next week. The 64-car Chetzemoka, which had been in standby status, began serving as the San Juan Islands inter-island vessel Monday, Jan. 9. The 87-car Evergreen State, 90-car Sealh, and 144-car Elwha are currently serving as the mainland vessels. I recognize that we are experiencing delays of approximately 20-60 minutes since the Evergreen State is a slower vessel than the Yakima and we are committed to providing regular updates to customers via email alerts. I appreciate your patience while this repair is under way and I want to thank all involved for moving quickly to return the Yakima to service.

Cross sound passenger ferry roundtable

Today, WSF is hosting a roundtable facilitated by the Cascadia Center for Regional Development on cross sound passenger ferry service. In addition to WSF and the Cascadia Center, King County, the city of Seattle, Sound Transit, Port of Kingston, city of Port Townsend, and Kitsap Transit are scheduled to present. I am looking forward to this discussion about preserving and improving this important maritime industry in the Puget Sound.

Ferry tales

Read the latest ferry tale, [Dancing in the Aisles](#).

Customer compliment

I received the following compliment from a Vashon Island customer. I want to congratulate WSF Web Agent Tracy Hagbo for a job well done. Thank you, Tracy, for going the extra mile to personally deliver the pass to the terminal on your way home.

Thanks so much to the customer service person [Tracy Hagbo] ...she went above and beyond the call of duty when helping with the replacement of my daughter's monthly ferry pass for the Vashon Ferry which had ceased to work, by expediting replacement and making it convenient for her to pick up her new card. I don't think I've ever been so pleasantly surprised by the customer service related to my daughter's commute on the ferry!! Thanks, again!! Keep up the great work!

Next Week:

- Remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 16 (state holiday)
- Meeting with the Tulalip Tribes regarding Mukilteo Multimodal Terminal Project

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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